

Bush Quail or the Painted Partridge and, worked over again later, would reveal the exact reverse—but never the two together. I have seen the Bustard Quail beaten out of the same patch as the Bush Quail. It would be interesting to have the experience of persons from other parts of the country.

The main crop in the Konkan is rice and there is no doubt that this forms an important part of the food of this bird. The best sport is also available in rice stubble adjoining scrub jungle. It will not be found far from fresh water and has often been put up out of tall rushes during the course of snipe shoots—Job's Tears (*Coix lachrymajobi*) seeds have been found in its stomach. There is some local migration due presumably to conditions of food and cover. Paddy gleanings form its staple diet in November, December, and January, though a greater proportion of large black ants (*Camponotus* sp.), Chrysomelid Beetles (*Aulacophora foveicollis*, 30-40 at a time), and large Pentatomid Bugs (*Aspongopus janus*) is taken later in the season. A large Tenebrionid beetle (*Pseudoblaps mellyi* Mal.) was found in December.

I have also been shown small 'canopies' 8 to 10 inches high formed by constant use in patches of standing dry grass which are said to be roosts of individual partridges. The last one examined held 6 to 8 droppings, and a partridge was flushed a short distance away.

MESSRS FAIZ & Co.,

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July 2, 1964.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

8. ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF KUTCH : *MONARCHA AZUREA* (BODDAERT) AND *MUSCICAPA THALASSINA* SWAINSON

The countryside surrounding the Vijaya Vilas Palace at Mandvi, which includes the plantation around the palace, other cultivated gardens, the sea-shore, the salt-water creeks, and the mudflats, is a veritable paradise for bird watchers, particularly during the cold weather. In January this year I was again lucky to discover two new birds in the garden there.

I saw a Blacknaped Blue Flycatcher (*Monarcha azurea*), either a female or an immature male, since it had a faint crescentic bar on its throat, on the morning of January 13. In the evening of the same day I came across the second new bird, a Verditer Flycatcher (*Muscicapa thalassina*), which was a male. I saw the former again on February 13.

About the former, Whistler (POPULAR HANDBOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS) says: 'The Indian race, *H. a. styani*, which also extends eastwards to Hainan, occurs throughout the whole country except north-west of a line from Lucknow, Sehere and western Khandesh.' Dharmakumar-sinhji (BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA) says that it is a rare straggler into Saurashtra, having been recorded in Chānch. Dr. Sálím Ali recorded it at Dwārka which is not so far from Mandvi as the crow flies. Sálím Ali and Whistler say that *Muscicapa thalassina* is found all over the Indian Union in winter excepting the drier portions of Rajasthan.

JUBILEE GROUND,
BHUJ,
KUTCH,
April 12, 1964.

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI
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